Era I: Human Origins and Early Civilizations, Prehistory to 1000 B.C. (B.C.E.)
Ancient River Valley Civilizations
Ancient River Valley Civilizations
WHI.3 The student will demonstrate knowledge of ancient river valley civilizations, including those of Mesopotamia, Egypt, the Indus River Valley, and China and the civilizations of the Hebrews, Phoenicians, and Nubians, by

a) locating these civilizations in time and place;

b) describing the development of social, political, and economic patterns, including slavery;

c) explaining the development of religious traditions;

d) describing the origins, beliefs, traditions, customs, and spread of Judaism;

e) explaining the development of language and writing.
Mesopotamia
Tigris and Euphrates River Valleys (SW Asia)

3500 BCE – 1600 BCE
II. The Fertile Crescent
Ancient Egypt
Nile River Valley and Delta

3000 BC (BCE) – 945 BC (BCE)
Mesopotamia
Euphrates and Tigris River Valleys
3500BCE-1600BCE

Ancient Egypt
Nile River Valley & Delta
3000-945BCE
Northeast Africa

Lower Nile

Upper Nile
Indus River Valley (India)

2500 BC (BCE) – 1700 BC (BCE)
Mesopotamia
Euphrates and Tigris River Valleys
3500BCE-1600BCE

Ancient India
Indus River Valley
2500-1700BCE

Ancient Egypt
Nile River Valley & Delta
3000-945BCE
Present Day Pakistan
Ancient China

2500 BC(BCE) – 256 BC(BCE)
Mesopotamia
Euphrates and Tigris River Valleys
3500BCE-1600BCE

Ancient India
Indus River Valley
2500-1700BCE

Ancient China
Yellow River Valley (Huang He)
2500-256BCE

Ancient Egypt
Nile River Valley & Delta
3000-945BCE
Huang He – Yellow River
Hebrews (Jews)

2000 BC(BCE) – Present Day
Mesopotamia
Euphrates and
Tigris River Valleys
3500BCE-1600BCE

Ancient India
Indus River Valley
2500-1700BCE

Ancient China
Yellow River Valley
(Huang He)
2500-256BCE

Ancient Egypt
Nile River Valley &
Delta
3000-945BCE

Hebrews (Jews)
3000-2000BCE

Jordan River
2000-Present

Hebrews (Jews)
2000-945BCE

Hebrews (Jews)
2000-945BCE
Location

Mediterranean Sea

Jordan River Valley

(W. Asia)
Phoenicians

1000 BC (BCE)
Mesopotamia: Euphrates and Tigris River Valleys (3500BCE-1600BCE)

Ancient India: Indus River Valley (Huang He) (2500-256BCE)

Phoenicians: Mediterranean Sea (1000BCE)

Ancient Egypt: Nile River Valley & Delta (3000-945BCE)

Hebrews (Jews): Jordan River (2000-Present)

Ancient China: Yellow River Valley (2500-1700BCE)

Ancient India: Indus River Valley (2500-1700BCE)
Phoenicians

Hebrews
Nubians

5000 BC to 1640 BC
Mesopotamia
Euphrates and Tigris River Valleys
3500BCE-1600BCE

Ancient India
Indus River Valley
2500-1700BCE

Ancient China
Yellow River Valley (Huang He)
2500-256BCE

Nubians
Upper Nile River
5000-1640BCE

Phoenicians
Mediterranean Sea
1000BCE

Ancient Egypt
Nile River Valley & Delta
3000-945BCE

Hebrews (Jews)
Jordan River
2000-Present

Ancient India
Indus River Valley
2500-1700BCE
• **Nubia** is a region along the Nile river, which is located in northern Sudan and southern Egypt.
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Geography – River Valleys

- Rivers are formed by melting snow from mountains
- Rivers flow from mountains into larger bodies of water, like an ocean or sea
- Rivers = fresh water (drinkable)
- Oceans = salt water (cannot drink)
The Fertile Crescent
The Fertile Crescent

• The most famous river valley with the first civilization
• Located in Southwest Asia (Middle East)
• Stretches from Persian Gulf to Mediterranean Sea
• Major Rivers
  – Tigris River
  – Euphrates River
Mesopotamian Civilization
3500 BCE – 1600 BCE

Tigris and Euphrates River Valleys
(SW Asia)
Mesopotamia

• The land located between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers
• The rivers flow from the Zagros and Taurus Mountains
• This land was very fertile because of annual flooding of the rivers. The soil left behind is called silt.
• Present-day country = Iraq
Silt

- Fine soil carried in the water of rivers
Political (government)

• Ruled by kings/priests

• City-states built around Ziggurats (meeting places/temples)

• 1\textsuperscript{st} city – Sumer (people – Sumerians)
**City-State**

- A city and its surrounding lands functioning as an independent political unit
Ziggurat

• A tiered, pyramid shaped structure that formed part of a Sumerian temple
Political (government)

- City-State=
City-State

- A city and its surrounding lands functioning as an independent political unit
Political (government)

- City-State=
  - a city and its surrounding villages, which together follow the same law, have one form of government, and share languages, religious beliefs, and ways of life
  - A city which is like its own country
City-State (Example)
City-State (Example)
Sumerian Culture/Society

- Lived in the eastern part of Mesopotamia
- Established **city-states** – same culture but each city had different leaders
- **Polytheistic.** Built **ziggurats** for religious and governmental purposes.
Polytheism

- A belief in many gods
Sumerian Culture/Society

• Governed by dynasties.
• Society had social classes (a rigid class system)
  - Priests and Kings
  - Wealthy merchants
  - Ordinary citizens
  - Slaves
Dynasty

- A series of rulers from a single family
Dynasty

- A series of rulers from a single family
Sumerian Culture/Society

- Inventions and Innovations
  - Wheel
  - Sail
  - Plow
  - First to use bronze
  - Developed first writing system = Cuneiform
Bronze Age

• Period in human history, beginning around 3000 BC in some areas, during which people began using bronze, rather than copper or stone to fashion tools and weapons
Cuneiform

• System of writing with wedge-shaped symbols, invented by the Sumerians around 3000 BC
Cuneiform

- Written language
- Lines and triangles
- “Wedge shaped”
Cuneiform